REMARKS

Claims 1-53 are pending. Claims 1-9 have been elected with traverse. Claims 10-53 have been withdrawn from further consideration.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,898,836 to Freivald et al. ("Freivald") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,405,175 to Ng ("Ng"). Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 6 as indicated above. Claims 3 and 7 have been cancelled to expedite prosecution of the application. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of the pending claims for the reasons set forth below.

§103 Rejections Are Overcome

Freivald describes a change detection tool that automatically retrieves and compares web documents for recent changes. (Freivald, Abstract). The Freivald change detection server 20 performs three basic functions: registers a web page document for change detection, periodically re-fetches the document and compare for changes, and e-mails a change notice to the registered user if a change is detected. (Freivald, Col. 6, lines 47-54). A user selects text (e.g., via highlighting the text) on a web page of interest and only changes in the selected text are reported back to the user. Non-selected text is ignored. (Freivald, Abstract).

Ng describes a searchable database that contains product and price information submitted by users who are rewarded for submitting the information. The following passage from Ng is the only passage from Ng that is being relied upon by the Final Action to support the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103:

> Change-detection web site 29 can be used to periodically and automatically search online auction site 18 for a particular item and price. Thus items that are infrequently on auction can be found if the user is patient. See U.S. Pat. No. 5,898,836 by Freivald et al., assigned to NetMind Services, Inc. of Campbell, Calif. (Ng, Col. 2, Lines 31-36).

Nothing else from Ng is relied on by the Final Action in the obviousness rejection. Moreover, the Final Action does not take the position that Applicants' claimed invention is rendered obvious by combining the change detection tool of Freivald with the Ng searchable database that contains product and price information submitted by rewarded users. It is merely the single-cited passage of Ng and Freivald that are being "combined" by the Final Action.

Applicants' amended independent Claim 1 recites a method of updating information maintained at an intermediary web site on a computer network about items being auctioned at a plurality of remotely located auction sites on the computer network, wherein the information is displayable to users accessing the intermediary web site via the computer network, comprising:

obtaining auction item data that has changed since a previous time for auctions currently being conducted at the respective auction sites, *wherein*

each auction site includes a data engine that is configured to obtain data about each item currently being auctioned at the respective auction site, and wherein the intermediary web site includes an agent that is configured to communicate with and retrieve auction item data from each auction site data engine, comprising:

establishing a TCP/IP connection between the agent and each respective data engine; and

sending an HTTP request from the agent to each respective data engine via the TCP/IP connection to obtain auction item data that has changed since a previous time;

extracting keywords from the obtained auction item data *via the agent*; and

storing the extracted keywords *via the agent*, wherein each stored keyword is associated with an item currently being auctioned at a respective one of the plurality of remotely located auction sites, and wherein the stored keywords are searchable by users accessing the intermediary web site. (Emphasis added).

Neither Freivald nor the above-cited Ng passage, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all the recitations of amended independent Claim 1. Specifically, Freivald and Ng fail to teach or suggest a data engine at each auction site that is configured to obtain data about each item currently being auctioned at the respective auction site. Freivald and Ng fail to teach or suggest an intermediary web site that includes an agent that is configured to communicate with and retrieve auction item data from each auction site data engine. Furthermore, Freivald and Ng fail to teach or suggest using an intermediary web site agent to extract keywords and store the extracted keywords so as to be searchable by users accessing the intermediary web site.

Because Freivald and Ng fail to teach or suggest *all* the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the present rejections of Claim 1, and the claims dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Applicants' amended independent Claim 6 recites a method of updating information maintained at an intermediary web site on a computer network about items being auctioned at a plurality of remotely located auction sites on the computer network, wherein the information is displayable to users accessing the intermediary web site via the computer network, comprising:

obtaining data about each item currently being auctioned at each respective auction site, *wherein each auction site includes a data engine* comprising a data file configured to store cyclic redundancy checking (CRC) values for static and dynamic

information about each auction item being auctioned at the respective auction site, wherein static information comprises an identification of an auction item, wherein dynamic information comprises at least one of bid information and price information associated with an auction item;

sending a request from the intermediary web site to the plurality of respective data engines to obtain auction item data that has changed since a previous time for auctions currently being conducted at the respective auction sites, *wherein the intermediary web site includes an agent that is configured to communicate with and retrieve auction item data from each auction site data engine*;

obtaining auction item data that has changed since a previous time for auctions currently being conducted at the respective auction sites, comprising the following performed by each respective data engine:

determining whether a data file contains a CRC value for each item currently being auctioned;

storing CRC values in the data file for each item currently being auctioned that does not have a CRC value in the data file;

sending static and dynamic information to the intermediary web site for each item currently being auctioned that does not have a CRC value in the data file; and

updating the information maintained at the intermediary web site with the static and dynamic information received from each respective data engine, comprising:

extracting keywords from the received static and dynamic information via the agent; and

storing the extracted keywords via the agent, wherein each stored keyword is associated with an item currently being auctioned at a respective one of the plurality of remotely located auction sites, and wherein the stored keywords are searchable by users accessing the intermediary web site. (Emphasis added).

Neither Freivald nor the above-cited Ng passage, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all the recitations of amended independent Claim 6. Specifically, Freivald and Ng fail to teach or suggest a data engine located at each of a plurality of auction sites and wherein each data engine includes a data file that stores CRC values for static and dynamic information about each auction item being auctioned at the respective auction site. Freivald and Ng fail to teach or suggest an intermediary web site having an agent that communicates with and retrieves auction item data from each auction site data engine. Furthermore, Freivald and Ng fail to teach or suggest obtaining auction item data that has changed since a previous time that includes extracting keywords from the received static and dynamic information via the intermediary web site agent, and storing the extracted keywords via the intermediary web site agent.

Because Freivald and Ng fail to teach or suggest *all* the recitations of Claim 6, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the present rejections of Claim 6, and the claims dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §103.
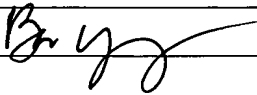
Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Any additional fees believed to be due in connection with this paper may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

Respectfully submitted,

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